

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending in the present application prior to amendment herein. Claims 1-18 and 23-25 have been canceled, and new claims 26-45 have been added. Claims 1-18 and 26-45 are therefore pending in the present application.

In the Office Action dated July 3, 2007, claim 19 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the Applicants' response dated October 2, 2007, claim 19 was therefore rewritten in this manner so as to include all of the limitations of claim 1, from which it directly depends.

New claims 26-43 depend from claim 19, and therefore are also believed to be allowable. Claims 26-42 correspond to canceled claims 2-18, and therefore add no new matter to the present application. New claim 43 finds support in the second sentence of paragraph [0061] of the specification of the present application, as published.

New independent claim 44 includes the limitations of claim 19, except that the communications device is not recited as being wireless. Like claim 19, claim 44 recites that the data captured by the claimed transport system is selected from the group consisting of fingerprint data, signature data, voiceprint data, data in magnetic form, digital photographic data, alphanumeric data, data from a breathalyzer, and data stored in a smart card. This feature of the system was mentioned in the statement of reasons for the indication of allowability included in the Office Action dated July 3, 2007. New claim 44 is therefore also believed to be patentable.

Support for claim 44 can be found in the second sentence of paragraph [0078] of the specification, as published. Support for new claim 45, which depends from claim 44, can be found in the second sentence of paragraph [0078].

Claims 20-22 have also been amended in order to change the dependency of these claims and to correct minor informalities. In view of the foregoing and the Applicants' comments below, the Applicants respectfully request entry of this Response to Restriction Requirement and Amendment.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The claims in the present application were subject to restriction to one of the following two groups:

Group I: Claims 1-18 and 20-25, drawn to a transport system; and

Group II: Claim 19, drawn to a subcombination of the transport system comprising data selected from the group consisting of fingerprint data, signature data, voiceprint data, data in magnetic form, digital photographic data, alphanumeric data, data from a breathalyzer, and data stored in a smart card.

The Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group II, encompassing pending claims 19-22 (as amended) and new claims 26-45.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If, however, there remain any issues which can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this Amendment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

SHELDON MAK ROSE & ANDERSON

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By: /michael fedrick/
Michael Fedrick
Reg. No. 36,799

100 E. Corson Street, Third Floor
Pasadena, California 91103-3842
(626) 796-4000
Customer No. 23676